

### **GUIDELINE FOR DETERMINING NEED FOR PARK CLOSURE/EVACUATIONS**

The following questions are presented as a guideline to assist park fire managers in determining the present or predicted necessity for evacuation of all or part of the park. The superintendent will make the final decision for closure/evacuation. Because of the critical time elements involved in closure and evacuation, this checklist should be completed at any time two or more elements in primary factor A are positive and should be kept as part of the park's fire records. This analysis should be based on predictions to allow adequate time for implementing the appropriate action.

For purpose of this guideline, key terms are defined as follows:

1. Partial closure: Park closure to visitors in specified areas.
2. Full closure: Park closure to visitors at entrances.
3. Evacuation: Removal of employees' families and/or visitors from the park.

The following steps are to be taken to make determinations:

1. Analyze each element and check the response "yes" or "no."
2. If positive responses equal or exceed negative responses within primary factors A through D; the primary factor should be considered a positive response.
3. Primary factor E is considered as a separate determinant.
4. Employ the following criteria to determine action:
  - a. If factor E is "no" and one other primary factor is "yes," consider full or partial closure.
  - b. If factor E is "no" and two or more primary factors are "yes," consider partial or full closure and evacuation of visitors.
  - c. If factor E is "no" and three or more primary factors are "yes," consider evacuation of visitors and employees' families.
  - d. If factor E is "yes," evacuate visitors and employees' families regardless of responses to other primary factors.

#### **A. FIRE BEHAVIOR** (observed or predicted)

1. Burning Index, Fuel Model B, 72 or above.
2. Crowning or spotting observed.
3. Rate of spread 12 chains per hour or greater.
4. Fire Size: 3 acres or more
5. More than one Class B size fire burning concurrently.

**TOTAL**

YES	NO

**B. PERSONNEL COMMITTED PARKWIDE**

		YES	NO
1.	Unusual initial attack forces committed.		
2.	Park cooperative agreement crews committed.		
3.	Park incidental firefighters committed.		
4.	Fires remaining unstaffed after commitment of above park forces.		
5.	Relief forces more than two hours away.		
TOTAL			

**C. OPERATIONS**

		YES	NO
1.	Access/egress route likely to be heavily used by suppression traffic.		
2.	Extensive air operations in vicinity of developed areas.		
3.	Potential incident base location in area which conflicts with routine visitor activities.		
TOTAL			

**D. LOCATION AND DIRECTION OF SPREAD**

		YES	NO
1.	Fire north of developed areas, proceeding south.		
2.	Fire south of developed areas, proceeding north.		
TOTAL			

**E. EXIT**

		YES	NO
*	Any vehicular egress route directly threatened for extended period (i.e., to point where no traffic could safely get through).		